



# THE LAKE DAVIS UPDATE

April 2006

Newsletter for the Proposed Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project

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Department of Fish  
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<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike>

## Introducing the Lake Davis Update

Welcome to the first edition of the Lake Davis Update! On September 14, 2005, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced a proposal to eradicate northern pike from Lake Davis and all its upstream tributaries – and embarked on a planning and environmental review process. The process will culminate in a jointly prepared Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the proposed Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project.

The Lake Davis Update will help you learn more about the proposed project and ensure that you are kept informed of opportunities for public involvement in the environmental review process.

## Scoping Report Now Available

The Scoping Report for the proposed Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project is available on line at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike>. Printed copies of the report and appendices are available for inspection at the following locations:

**Dept. of Fish & Game**  
209 Commercial St.  
Portola \*

\* This is a field office – please  
call (530) 832-4068 to  
schedule an appointment

**Dept. of Fish &  
Game Regional  
Headquarters**  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova

**U.S. Forest Service  
Plumas National Forest  
Supervisor's Office**  
159 Lawrence St.  
Quincy

**U.S. Forest Service  
Beckwourth Ranger  
Station**  
23 Mohawk Road  
Blairsden

**Plumas County Library**  
34 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Portola

**Plumas County Library**  
445 Jackson  
Quincy, CA

**Sacramento Library**  
828 – I St.  
Sacramento

Copies of the report, without appendices, are available from DFG and USFS offices listed above.

The Scoping Report summarizes the comments received by DFG and USFS during the public scoping period for the EIR/EIS. Scoping meetings were held in Portola and Sacramento in September 2005. The purpose of the scoping meetings was to solicit comments on the proposed project. Over 100 people attended the meetings and provided comments. In addition, 122 written comments were received during the scoping period.

## Workshops Update

In response to interest expressed at the Scoping Meetings last September, DFG is planning to hold community workshops in Portola beginning this spring. Topics currently being considered include groundwater issues, environmental issues related to the use of rotenone, and the economic study. Other topics may be included as the need presents itself. Announcements of the workshops will be made in the Portola Reporter and the Feather River Bulletin. Notices for these workshops will also be posted on the project website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike>. You are encouraged to attend these workshops and learn more about these important topics.

## QUESTIONS?

Call the Portola  
Office of the  
Department of  
Fish and Game  
at  
(530) 832-4068

Or email:  
northernpike@  
dfg.ca.gov

Or visit our  
website at:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/  
northernpike](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike)



## What's the Problem with Pike?

Northern pike is a non-native predatory fish species illegally introduced to California. Pike introductions in other regions have demonstrated that pike have the potential to become the dominant fish species, and negatively impact the environment. Through the Feather River, Lake Davis is connected to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers Delta, which is home to many economically important fisheries as well as many state and federally-listed species. Should the pike escape or be moved from the reservoir, they would likely do irreversible damage to the aquatic ecosystem and fisheries in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed, as well as potentially harm other areas of California and the western United States.

The known extent of northern pike in California is limited to Lake Davis and its upstream tributary streams. If pike spread into downstream populations, eradication will no longer be feasible. The proposed project is intended to eradicate the pike before this occurs.

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## Proposed Pike Eradication Project

DFG proposes to eradicate northern pike from Lake Davis and its upstream tributaries. The Project Description, published in the Initial Study, is described as:

*The proposed project includes the drawdown of Lake Davis to a volume of about 10,000 – 20,000 acre-feet and applying a liquid form of rotenone to eradicate northern pike from the reservoir and its tributaries.*

Because the proposed project has the potential for significant environmental impacts, DFG and USFS are jointly preparing an environmental document called an EIR/EIS in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The EIR/EIS will analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed project as well as a reasonable range of alternatives, including a “no action” alternative.

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## Environmental Consulting Firm Hired

To assist with the preparation of the environmental documents for the proposed Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project, DFG has contracted with ENTRIX, Inc. ENTRIX is an environmental consulting services company specializing in water resource management, environmental risk management, natural resource management, and natural resource economics. More information can be found at their website <http://www.entrix.com>.

## Lake Davis Steering Committee

Bill Powers, Chairman

Local political and business leaders formed the Lake Davis Steering Committee in 1998 to address the problems in the aftermath of Department of Fish and Game's 1997 pike eradication project. We felt we suffered from a devastating lack of communication and a lack of agreement over an eradication plan that was carried out that October. The goal of the Committee is to improve communication with Fish and Game, strengthen partnerships, and assist in developing solutions to eradicate pike in Lake Davis.

The years since 1997 have turned local emotions, ranging from indifference to anger and frustration, towards a willingness to understand and participate in developing a permanent solution to the problems this voracious invasive species brings to our area – and our state. With the establishment of the Fish and Game office in Portola and the continued activities of the Lake Davis Steering Committee, we have established open and (most of us feel) honest communication between federal, state, and local governments – as well as various interest groups and local citizens. This communication is critical to any success an eradication process may have.

Fish and Game has embarked on a planning process to explore ways to eradicate the pike in Lake Davis. The Steering Committee is working closely with Fish and Game to ensure the local community is involved in the planning of any project that will affect us all.

Public health and safety is our number one concern. It is up to us to question the risk factors and determine that the best science is being used to minimize the human health effects. The Steering Committee is demanding to know exactly what chemical formulations will be used, how it will be dispersed in the lake, and how the effects will be removed from our drinking water and our environment. We are demanding that stringent monitoring programs be initiated to ensure the safety of our air, water, and land.

We are also concerned about the recreational and economic aspects of Lake Davis. The lake has been a notable trophy trout lake for nearly 40 years. Pike have increasingly affected the sustainability of the trout fishery, taking over more territory and devouring larger and larger trout. To let pike continue to live in Lake Davis, I believe, will halt recreational opportunities in the future.

The only practical answer is to work together, through the Steering Committee, to make sure all safeguards are in place before, during, and after the next eradication effort. Please join the Steering Committee in working with Fish and Game, and the Forest Service, Health Services, and other government agencies to assure the most efficient and effective effort possible.



**Find  
Steering  
Committee  
notices of  
future meetings,  
minutes of  
past meetings,  
and archived  
editions  
of the  
Lake Davis  
Steering  
Committee  
Newsletter  
at:  
[www.dfg.cs.gov/  
northernpike/  
steering.html](http://www.dfg.cs.gov/northernpike/steering.html)**

**Portola  
Office of the  
Department  
of  
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northernpike@  
dfg.ca.gov**

**website:  
www.dfg.ca.gov/  
northernpike**

*Update on  
the  
Proposed  
Lake Davis  
Pike  
Eradication  
Project*

## What's Next?

- ENTRIX, Inc. will be assisting DFG and USFS in preparing the draft EIR/EIS. Expected release date of the Public Review Draft is Summer 2006. Economists will also be preparing an Economic Study independent from the draft EIR/EIS.
- Public workshops are being planned beginning in the spring.
- A public review and comment period will follow the release of the Public Review Draft of the EIR/EIS.
- DFG and USFS will respond to comments received during the public review period and publish a Final EIR/EIS. Expected date is the end of December 2006.
- A decision on this project is expected in early 2007.

DFG and USFS are committed to strong local and other public involvement – and encourages active participation in the environmental review process.

## Future Newsletters

Future editions of this newsletter will be published to inform the community of the progress of the proposed project. If you are aware of someone who would like to receive future newsletters, please contact:

DFG Portola Office at (530) 832-4068

Or email: [northernpike@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:northernpike@dfg.ca.gov)

This and future editions of this newsletter will be available online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike>.

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